Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /084 W -------231242Z 003176 /41

R 230743Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7317 INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3183

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EGEN, MY

SUBJECT: NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

REF: KUALA LUMPUR A-28

1. IN OPENING THE FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION DEPUTY PM MAHATHIR TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE THE GOM'S GOALS FOR THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (NEP); SEE KUALA LUMPUR A-28 FOR GOALS. MAHATHIR COMMENTED THAT GOM WILL CONTINUE USE MONETARY, TAXATION, DEVELOPMENT, INVESTMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICIES AS "MICRO" TOOLS IN ACHIEVING ITS STATED GOALS.

2. DEPPM SAID PUBLIC CORPORATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PRIME VEHICLE IN FORWARDING GOM POLICIES, BUT WILL HAVE TO REDIRECT THEIR EMPHASIS DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN. RATHER THAN CONCENTRATE EFFORTS SOLELY ON ACQUISITION OF NEW ASSETS THE CORPORATIONS WILL ALSO BE CALLED UPON TO CONSOLIDATE AND IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS ALREADY ACQUIRED. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE GOM WILL BE ISSUING NEW POLICY GUIDELINES TO THESE CORPORATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPETE WITH INDIVIDUAL BUMIPUTRA ENTREPRENEURS.

3. COMMENT: MAHATHIR'S SPEECH CAN BE SEEN AS A
REAFFIRMATION OF THE GOM'S COMMITMENT TO THE NEP WHICH
HAS RECENTLY BEEN CRITICIZED BY UMNO OLD GUARD AND OTHER
SECTORS OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY. COMMENTS ON PUBLIC CORPORATIONS
WERE A RESPONSE AND REACTION TO CRITICISMS OF THESE BODIES

FROM SEVERAL SOURCES WHO HAVE BECOME DISENCHANTED WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS WHICH, IN IMPORTANT NUMBER OF CASES ARE NOT YET PROFITABLE.
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